

The Geneva County Commission met in regular session on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama.

Commission Chairman Toby Seay called the meeting to order and welcomed guests present. Commissioner Hammer opened the meeting with prayer. Chairman Seay led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no elected officials requesting to make public comment.

There were no citizens requesting to make public comment.

Commission Chairman Seay called the roll and the following members were present: Commissioners Todd Brannon, Sandy Hammer, Weston Spivey, and Bart Wilks. The County Attorney Phil Eldridge; County Engineer, Justin Barfield; Assistant County Engineer, Mike Shirah; Sheriff, Tony Helms; EMA Director, Eric Johnson; Revenue Commissioner, Mary Ann Ellison; Solid Waste Director, Dawn Smith; County Administrator Cindy Williams were also present. The following business was transacted:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of June 8, 2020. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2020. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.
2. The Wiregrass Medical Center had requested to be on the agenda and was inadvertently left off. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Mr. Brannon with Wiregrass Medical Center to speak. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Jeff Brannon was present representing The Wiregrass Medical Center to present information for the Commission to consider placing a millage increase for the hospital on the November 2020 ballot. This increase would not be effective until 2021. Wiregrass Medical Center employs 400 people. There are 273 full time jobs and the remainder are part time jobs. They also provide another 291 jobs indirectly. Mr. Brannon explained that the services the hospital uses and the taxes the hospital and employees generate creates a \$38,000,000 economic impact. It is, in his opinion, that the hospital is vital to Geneva County and the healthcare for the citizens of the county. The current millage rate for the hospital is 2.6 and Mr. Brannon is asking that the millage rate be increased to 4 and placed on the November 2020 ballot. Mr. Brannon gave the Commission a resolution and petition from the Geneva County Health Care Authority requesting that the Commission place the question of the increase on the ballot in November for the

voters to vote on. Commissioner Hammer made a motion that the question on the millage rate increase for the Wiregrass Medical Center be placed on the November ballot. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Attorney Phil Eldridge will draw up a written resolution and order to give to the Commission.

3. Proclamations: None
4. Bids: None
5. Board Appointments: Hospital Board. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to reappoint Dr. Hoyt Childs to the Hospital Board. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer Justin Barfield stated he was currently serving on the Southeast Alabama Regional Solid Waste Disposal Authority Board and he would like to resign this appointment and asks the Commission to replace his appointment with Dawn Smith the new Solid Waste Director. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to accept Mr. Barfield's resignation to the Southeast Alabama Regional Solid Waste Disposal Authority Board and appoint Solid Waste Director, Mrs. Dawn Smith, to the board. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jail Construction. Mr. Mike Rutland with JMR+H was present to give an update on the Jail Construction. He stated the project was very near completion and training should begin in the next few weeks on the new jail. Training on the generator has already begun. The contractors punch list should be to JMR+H by the end of this week. At that time JMR+H will also prepare their punch list and should begin on that the week of July 6th. The lines for the telephones and video all in the processed of being pulled in the building. Not able to move in any movable furniture at this time but the High-Density storage will be installed next week. The property exchange will be coordinated with the Sheriff and Jail Administrator. County Attorney Eldridge asked Mr. Rutland should the County proceed with having the insurance carrier come and inspect the property to make certain we have it added to the County insurance plan. Mr. Rutland stated yes that should be done because the property should be turned over by the end of July.
2. Spec Building. Bids will be opened at the July 13, 2020 Commission meeting.

REPORTS OF STAFF:

Sheriff: The Sheriff stated his department had two vehicles damaged over the weekend due to car chases. Both should be under the deductible. He has spoken with Todd Medley with Foxhill Information Systems again regarding the quote on computers for the jail and Mr. Medley was able to get the quote in around \$12,000.00. The Sheriff stated he has been unable to obtain three quotes but will continue to work on this. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to allow Sheriff Helms to purchase the computers and equipment from the lowest quote once he obtains three quotes. Commissioner Brannon seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Sheriff Helms stated he has also been searching for mattresses for the new jail and has three quotes for these. The best product comes from Norix and they are on State Bid. The Sheriff is requesting permission to purchase 120 regular mattresses at a cost of \$106.00 each and 48 mattresses at a cost of \$170.00 each for the maximum-security cells and for psychiatric inmates. The total cost for mattresses will be \$20,880.00. County Attorney Eldridge told the Sheriff that he needs written proof from the State website that the vendor and the mattresses are on the State Bid List at the time of purchase and this needs to be with the purchase documents. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Sheriff Helms to amend the jail budget to add the purchase of mattresses.

Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Spivey made a motion to allow Sheriff Helms to purchase mattresses for the new jail from the State Bid List at a cost of \$20,880.00. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Administrator: Cindy Williams is requesting the Commission allow her to drop the MDA that has been a portion of the financial audit. She explained that previous Administrator Marietta Webster has requested this in the past and the auditors have also requested this be dropped because if it is completed, they are required to audit it. Mrs. Webster was the only Administrator still completing the MDA. Mrs. Williams explained she would still provide the Commission with information that is contained in the MDA so they would be able to make informed financial decisions for the County. Commissioner Brannon made a motion to allow Administrator Cindy Williams to discontinue the MDA portion of the financial audit. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

County Engineer: Engineer Justin Barfield stated he has two Equipment Operator II positions open due to the voluntary termination of a new employee and request the position be advertised.

He stated on payment had been made on the old dump trucks but now two trucks have been sold. When all four trucks have been sold, we should have enough to cover the loan payment. The two additional dump trucks have been received. Mr. Barfield is requesting to place the two old Sterling dump trucks on GovDeals. Commissioner Wilks made a motion to allow Mr. Barfield to place the two old Sterling dump trucks for sale on GovDeals. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Mr. Barfield explained that the old Federal Aid money is running out due to the new Rebuild Alabama tax money.

Herbicide spraying is 50% complete. Bush hogging is being held off for now due to his low number of employees.

County Attorney: Attorney Eldridge stated since the last Commission meeting, he had made all the necessary changes to the new Personnel Handbook and had given to Administrator Cindy Williams to type and forward to the Personnel Attorney. After the final draft the Commission can precede with adopting the new Personnel System. Mr. Eldridge also advised that the grievance hearing for Ms. Natalie Curry who was employed at the jail was scheduled for the next Personnel Board meeting which will be July 21, 2020.

Chairman Seay: Chairman Seay stated he had a grant application for RC&D. The last project was for a new air conditioning unit at the Chancellor Community Center. He would like to apply for arena fans at the Farm Center but is asking the Commission if they have any projects they would like to have done. Commissioners all agreed that arena fans at the Farm Center are needed. Chairman Seay also stated the Energy Grant from ADECA has been used for upgrading lighting at the Farm Center, but we had money left over. ADECA has instructed him that we can use the remaining funds on another project. He stated there are two obsolete air units at the Farm Center and the remaining \$5,000.00 could be used toward replacing these units. The Commission agreed to use the remaining \$5,000.00 to assist in the cost of replacing the obsolete air units at the Farm Center.

Chairman Seay relayed information regarding the CARES Act which reimburses for Covid-19 related expenses. The allotment for Geneva County is \$954,000.00. This money can also be spent to make modifications to the Courthouse for Covid-19. To date we have installed a door in the Solid Waste department, added plexiglass dividers in the Revenue department, Board of Registrar's office and Circuit Clerk office. This money may also be used to recoup payroll expense due to Covid-19 when the County was working at half-staff.

Revenue Commissioner: Nothing to report.

EMA Director: Eric Johnson stated there would be Covid-19 testing in Hartford on Thursday at the Johnny Hughes Community Center. Testing may begin to be moved around the County in the various cities for convenience for the citizens. Our County is still low in the number of cases of Covid-19. Currently we have 52 overall confirmed cases and sixteen active cases. Information regarding hurricane preparedness began being issued last week. This hurricane season is forecasted to be very active.

Solid Waste: Director Dawn Smith is requesting to charge off the delinquent accounts in her department. She provided a list of all delinquent accounts that are over five years old and all efforts have been exhausted in collection. The total amount of these accounts is \$32,000.00. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to allow Director Smith to charge off the \$32,000.00 in delinquent accounts. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

E-911: Mr. Williams stated that Geneva County E-911 was very busy over the weekend. He is back at full staff with two employees in training.

Auburn Extension: They are still working remotely until July 1, 2020. Lisa Powell has resigned and her last day will be July 3, 2020. She requests if anyone knows of someone seeking employment have them go the auemployment.com website and apply. Mrs. Marks thanked the Commission for their donations for the Farmers Market and EMA Director Eric Johnson for his assistance. This Saturday, June 27th at 9:00 a.m. will be the ribbon cutting for the Farmers Market and all are invited

Commissioner Hammer made a motion for the Commission to go into Executive Session to discuss with County Attorney Eldridge a controversy where legal action is likely if the Geneva County Commission pursues a proposed course of action. County Attorney Eldridge is an Alabama Attorney and he stated the planned discussion fits in this category.

Chairman Seay polled the Commissioners for agreement. Commissioner Brannon – agree. Commissioner Hammer – agree. Commissioner Spivey – agree. Commissioner Wilks – agree.

Commission meeting reconvened and the Chairman called the open meeting back to order. Commissioner Hammer made a motion to accept a reduction in the contract cost of the Jail of \$25,000.00 from Bear Brothers Inc. to allow for delays caused by Core Slab. He added and based on this reduction in the contract cost to recommend to the Public Building Authority that they execute Change Order #10 on the rain and impact days. Commissioner Spivey seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Brannon: Nothing to report.

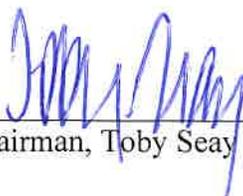
Commissioner Hammer: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Spivey: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Wilks: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilks seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0.

The above constitutes the minutes of the meeting of the Geneva County Commission held on Monday, June 22, 2020.

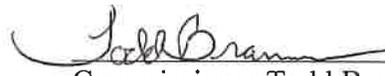


Chairman, Toby Seay



Cindy Williams
County Administrator

Commissioner Weston Spivey



Commissioner Todd Brannon



Commissioner Bart Wilks



Commissioner Hammer